IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1 and 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1 and 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): An image formation method that develops an electrostatic latent image on a photoreceptor by means of a thin toner layer, which is formed on surface of a developer roller via toner of a magnetic roller and magnetic brush of carrier particles, so as to form an image, said image formation method comprising the steps of:

providing the developer roller that is made of aluminum and has an aluminum oxide film of at least 5 μm in thickness formed on surface thereof;

setting a gap between the developer roller and a drum of the photoreceptor in a range of 150 to 300 μm;

applying a DC voltage superposed with an AC voltage to said developer roller;

regulating a frequency of AC voltage in a non-development state to be higher than that in a development state; and

selectively making charged toner fly onto the electrostatic latent image for development.

Claim 4 (original): The image formation method according to claim 3, which comprises regulating a frequency in a range of 1 to 4 kHz in the development state.

Claim 5 (original): The image formation method according to clam 3, which comprises regulating a frequency in a range of 1 to 3 kHz in the development state.

Claim 6 (original): The image formation method according to claim 3, which comprises regulating a frequency in a range of 4 to 8 kHz in the non-development state.

Claim 7 (original): The image formation method according to claim 3, which comprises regulating a frequency in a range of 5 to 8 kHz in the non-development state.